

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James T. Pinyerd (Reg. No. 58,689) on 05/03/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 20, line 2, has been amended such that the phrase "a non-opaque shell" has been changed to -a transparent shell--.
- Claim 24, line 2, has been amended such that the phrase "a non-opaque shell" has been changed to -a transparent shell--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-18, 20 and 24 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not disclose, imply, suggest, teach and/or provide a properly motivated combination thereof disclosing the invention as defined by claims 20 and 24 in its totality, with particular attention given to the electrodeless tube and the non-opaque shell.

It should be noted there are many prior art references that disclose electrodeless discharge "tubes", the most relevant being U.S. Patents: 6,433,478 to Chandler et al.; 5,717,290 to Shaffer and 3,909,736 to Huchital et al. However none of these references provide a properly motivated and/or even well motivated combination with other prior art to provide rejections to the claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron Roane whose telephone number is (571) 272-4771. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Johnson can be reached on (571) 272-4768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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3769